

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05

OMB-01 SY-04 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-05

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O P 311140Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9147

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 1928

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: THIRTY-FIRST DAY OF THE KC DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE

REF: (A) PHNOM PENH 1814;

(B) PHNOM PENH 1860

1. SUMMARY. TWO MORE RICE VESSELS, PART OF THE MEKONG RIVER CONVOY, ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH EARLY JANUARY 31. THE KC FIRED MORE ROCKETS AT POCHENTONG AIRPORT ON JANUARY 31. THESE ATTACKS, ACCORDING TO INITIAL REPORTS, RESULTED IN TWO AMERICAN COMMERCIAL PILOTS BEING SLIGHTLY WOUNDED AND TWO AIRPLANES DAMAGED. END SUMMARY.

2. THE TWO RICE VESSELS WERE ESCORTED BY SIX KHMER NAVAL CRAFT. EIGHT VESSELS OF THE ELEVEN VESSEL CONVOY FROM SOUTH VIETNAM HAVE NOW ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH. OF THE OTHER THREE, ONE OIL TANKER WAS LOST (REFTEL A). AND THE KHMER NAVY HOPES TO RECOVER THE ONE REMAINING OIL TANKER AND RICE VESSEL AND TOW THEM TO THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE BORDER AND NEAK LUONG RESPECTIVELY LATE

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JANUARY 31. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, ALL THE

CIVILIAN CREW MEMBERS OF THE CONVOY HAVE BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR (SEE REFTTEL B) AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO CASUALTIES, DESPITE VARIOUS REPORTS CIRCULATING TO THE CONTRARY.

3. THE THREE JANUARY MEKONG RIVER CONVOYS BROUGHT TO PHNOM PENH THE FOLLOWING SUPPLIES: 6,494 SHORT TONS OF AMMUNITION, 5,321 SHORT TONS OF FUEL PRODUCTS, AND 7,444 SHORT TONS OF RICE.

4. THE KC FIRED ABOUT EIGHTEEN 107MM ROCKETS AT POCHENTONG BETWEEN 0500 AND NOON JANUARY 31. MOST OF THESE LANDED INSIDE THE AIRFIELD PERIMETER, SEVERAL CLOSE TO THE CONTROL TOWER. ONE PERSON WAS KILLED AND AT LEAST EIGHT WOUNDED AT THE AIRPORT AND FURTHER CASUALTIES RESULTED FROM THE ROUNDS LANDING OUTSIDE THE PERIMETER. OF THE WOUNDED, TWO WERE AMERICAN PILOTS WORKING FOR KHMER COMMERCIAL AIRLINES. WE UNDERSTAND THEIR WOUNDS ARE NOT SERIOUS. ONE T-28 FIGHTER BOMBER SUFFERED DAMAGE TO ITS RIGHT WING (WE DO NOT YET KNOW HOW SERIOUS) AND ONE CIVILIAN DC-3 WAS DAMAGED SLIGHTLY FROM THE ATTACKS. ONE C-123 AIRCRAFT WAS ALSO DAMAGED AS A RESULT OF ROCKET ATTACKS JANUARY 30, BUT CAN BE REPAIRED IN A FEW DAYS. THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT ONE OR MORE HELICOPETS WERE DAMAGED. (THERE ARE MANY RUMORS AND EXAGGERATIONS CURRENTLY CIRCULATING IN PHNOM PENH ABOUT DAMAGE AND CASUALTIES AT POCHENTONG, INCLUDING AMERICANS BEING KILLED AND AIRPLANES BEING COMPLETELY DESTROYED. THESE STORIES MAY WELL BE REFLECTED IN PRESS COVERAGE.)

5. THERE WAS LITTLE TO REPORT ABOUT THE MILITARY SITUATION AROUND PHNOM PENH OR ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY. DEAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMBAT OPERATIONS, COMBAT ZONES, COMBAT CASUALTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PHNOM01928
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750036-0457
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975012/aaaaabqg.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PHNOM PENH 1814
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THIRTY-FIRST DAY OF THE KC DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE
TAGS: MOPS, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006